

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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R 261616Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6556
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS LONDON 08399

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UK, SF
SUBJECT: NEW WHITE PAPER ON UK COMPANIES IN SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: LONDON 7390 NOTAL

1. THE UK GOVERNMENT RELEASED MAY 25 A WHITE PAPER ENTITLED "CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPANIES WITH INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA" WHICH GIVES DETAILED GUIDELINES ON HOW BRITISH COMPANIES SHOULD INTERPRET THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE EC CODE. THE PAPER REPLACES THE UK'S 1974 CODE OF CONDUCT.

2. COMPLIANCE CONTINUES TO BE VOLUNTARY UNDER THE NEW POLICY, BUT INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT IN GREATER DETAIL, ON A WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND IN A STANDARDIZED FORMAT, THAT WILL PERMIT ANALYSIS OF CORPORATE PERFORMANCE.

3. THE WHITE PAPER IS BEING CIRCULATED TO COMPANY
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CHAIRMEN UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE EDMUND DELL, IN WHICH HE STRONGLY ENCOURAGES COMPANY COOPERATION.

4. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PAPER:
(A) COMPANIES WILL BE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ANNUALLY TO

THE GOVERNMENT DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW SUBSIDIARIES
IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE ADHERING TO THE CODE.

(B) A PRECISE FORMAT IS GIVEN FOR HOW THE SUBMISSION
SHOULD BE MADE.

(C) THE DEPT. OF TRADE WILL PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT
ON COMPANIES' PERFORMANCE. (WE UNDERSTAND THE GOVERN-
MENT INTENDS TO PUBLISH BY NAME THE COMPANIES WHICH
SUBMIT REPORTS AND THOSE WHICH DO NOT, BUT NO QUALITATIVE
ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE WILL BE PUBLISHED.)

(D) COMPANIES WILL BE ASKED TO STATE THEIR POLICY ON:

-- COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING

TRADE UNIONS;

-- MIGRANT LABOR;

-- EQUAL PAY;

-- EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES;

-- DESEGREGATION OF WORKING FACILITIES.

(E) COMPANY DETAILS WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON:

-- BLACK WAGE RATES;

-- FRINGE BENEFITS;

-- TRAINING SCHEMES FOR BLACK ADVANCEMENT.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF WHITE PAPER TO DEPARTMENT
(EUR/NE-GOODMAN AND PRETORIA-TARTTER).

STREATOR

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NNN

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